

Dear Jim,

3/9/75

Again you are very kind! Thanks much. I can tell you what your gift will pay for, especially after yesterday: most of what it will cost to get a small cart to pull with my mower-minerature tractor.

I've been providing much of our meat - all of mine when my wife is not home- with firewood and I haul it in a garden cart. It is about 1200 feet to the houses, unpaved and half uphill. That tires me too much.

It is exceedingly generous of you. I do hope you can afford it. It is particularly helpful because I am applying 100% of the gross to paying off the loan Lesar made to pay the printer for WW IV. To date we've paid half of it back. But in order to do this and reduce the interest costs it means all other ~~fixed~~ costs have to be absorbed. They won't be recovered at all unless the book sells more than it takes to pay the debt off.

We, too, regret the Ray decision and regard it as a preconception the judge strained to pretend to validate. It is anything but justice! It means a large amount of extra work, mostly for Lesar. So you will understand, the other two have done virtually no work at all and instead have actually presented problems to Lesar and me. Problems we have to overcome at the cost of more (unpaid) time.

I'd love to be able to get down there. I need the vacation. However it just isn't possible. Not only that I don't have even the fare. It is that I'm that far behind in work. I've not been able to return to writing the draft of which was almost completed in September when I had to lay it aside for Ray work. Then WW IV and since then no time at all.

There are other not infrequent interruptions in output, generally necessary. Yesterday afternoon and evening a reporter with whom I'll also spend some time today. And today, I hope separately, both Lesar and Robert Roden. (I've been able to moderate his excesses and to get him to drop the ravings insofar as I know what he says but there is no prospect at all of influencing either Gregory or Schoenmann.) Robert's technical work has been brilliant but he knows nothing about the fact of the case and doesn't take the time to find out.

I had not heard that Gregory is going to run again. How do you know? did it appear in print somewhere? Did he announce it in a speech? What you say of Lane and the Garrison operation is no surprise. Mark is as unscrupulous as he is bright and will use anything to promote himself. He exploited Garrison very profitably. He is up to at least one other spoiling operation now. New and have little detail. But he is not the only such influence on Gregory, of whose intentions I have no doubt. Like Garrison, he trusts only the wrong people, though.

Neither Lott nor Gonzalez responded. Gonzalez had a staffer working on this at the time of the CTFT meeting in Georgetown. I never heard from any, then or ever.

The only thing I think you can do is send clippings on stories that might be of interest. The papers here often don't carry some stories and the Jackson and N.O. papers are on different regional wires of the major wire services. In May, for example, they might well have a different story than the one those wires would carry for this area.

Hope school is going well and that you are enjoying it, too.

I never hear from Garrison, by the way. The last I heard he was practising law. There was a story in the paper here, a short piece saying that Judge Heebe held the Shaw civil suit can continue. I take this to mean he wants the lawyers to latch onto what they can get from the T&C wealthies. I could help them but can't reach them. I wrote one and never got acknowledgement. If they depend on Jim they depend on luck only. Not that he doesn't have an exception record with luck. Again sincere thanks,